(b) if so, when the consent was given and the financial provisions made in this regard;

(c) the time by when the production would start from this mine and the target regarding quantum of production fixed in this regard; and

(d) the arrangement being made for manpower to operate the mines, whether new recruitment will be made and whether preference would be given to the residents of the district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) No, Sir. However, there is an opencast mine called Barkuhi opencast mine already operating at Eklehara village of Parasia Tehsil situated at a distance of 4.5 Km. from Barkuhi village.

(b) and (c) The Barkuhi opencast mine is already in operation since 2004-05. Barkuhi opencast mine (Phase-II) (situated in Eklehara village) has been approved in March 2008 with hiring of equipments for a capital investment of Rs. 104.00 lakhs. Mine has produced 1,53,300 tonnes in 2007-08 and is expected to produce 65,000 tonnes in 2008-09.

(d) The Barkuhi opencast mine (situated in Eklehara village) is operating in already acquired land of Western Coalfields Limited, hence, no new recruitment will be made.

Telephone connections in Rajasthan

634. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Rajasthan, which are not having telephone facility/connectivity;

(b) the details of the waiting list of the applicants for the various services of BSNL such as Mobile, WLL, Landline, etc. in Rajasthan;

(c) whether Government has formulated any time-bound programme to provide district-wise telephone connections to its waitlisted subscribers;

(d) if so, by when these waitlisted subscribers would be provided telephone connections; and

(e) the time taken on an average by the BSNL to provide telephone connections to its subscribers in the years 2005,2006 and 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Sir, 5,408 villages are not having telephone facility / connectivity out of 39,753 villages in Rajasthan as on 30.9.08.

(b) Details of wait listed applicants for BSNL telephone facility as on 30.9.08 in Rajasthan are given below:

For Wireline / WLL Telephone connections	:	1,969
For GSM Mobile Telephone Connections	:	Nil
TOTAL :	:	1,969

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. 43 Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) of BSNL are under installation and order for supply of additional 126 WLL BTSs has been issued. On commissioning of these BTSs by the end of this financial year, most of the wait listed applicants will be provided telephone connection progressively.

(e) Out of the total applications registered for provision of New Basic Telephone Connections (Wire & WLL) in the areas declared "on demand" in Rajasthan Telecom circle BSNL, 81.44%, 96.66% and 96.75% connections were provided within seven days of registration during the year 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively.

Special Purpose Vehicle

635. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether taking a cue from railways, Ministry of Telecommunications and Posts is considering a proposal to set up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to develop vacant space of department of posts for commercial utilization;

(b) if so, whether Ministry is considering SPV to be named Postal Land Development Authority and it will be on lines of Railway Land Development Authority;

(c) whether Ministry has forwarded proposal to the Planning Commission, Finance Ministry and Urban Development Ministry for consultation and guidance;

(d) the reaction of these Ministries; and

(e) the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) There is no proposal to set up a Postal Land Development Authority. However, a proposal for setting up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), a wholly owned company with limited liability and 100% equity participation by the Government, registered under the Companies Act, 1956, for optimum development and management of postal estates is under consideration of Government.

(e) At this stage, no time frame for setting up an SPV could be indicated.

FDI in Communications and IT Ministry

636. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of Foreign Exchange earned by the software exports during 2006-07 and 2007-08; and

(b) the total amount of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Communications and IT Ministry during 2006-07 and 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) As per the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), the total software and services exports in 2006-07 and 2007-08 are US$ 31.3 billion and US$ 40.3 billion respectively.